



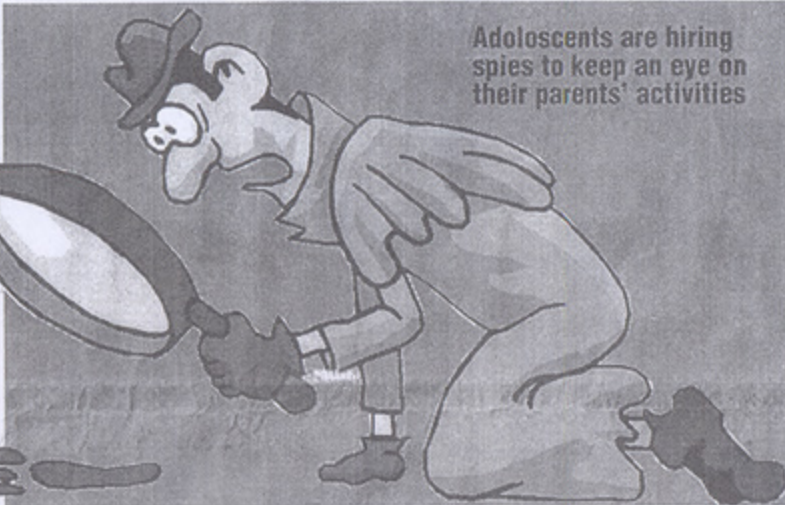
Spy kids trail parents

Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie, Nancy Drew, Hardy boys — detectives and their interesting cases have captivated our imagination. Of late, a rising trend has been observed among a number of teenagers hiring the services of detective agencies to spy on their parents. Interestingly, the reasons why kids spy on their parents are far more entangled than one can possibly think of.

According to Satish Nayar, an investigation officer at Trig detective agency, they do get cases where children hire their services to "keep an eye on their parents". "It is mostly children belonging to modern well-to-do families who approach us as detective services are highly priced. Moreover, these services are paid for on a daily basis," he explains.

Citing the reasons why children ask for their parents to be investigated upon, he says, "They mostly come to us when they doubt that something is amiss amongst their parents. They also hire us when they suspect that either of their parents are having an extra-marital affairs. Children want the truth, they want to know who is involved and what's going wrong."

Baldev K. Puri, CEO, AMX Detectives, says, "There has been a steep rise in the number of children hiring us to spy on their parents." He adds that though earlier it was only rich children, these days, a large number of children from middle-class families also take refuge in these services. "Children are intelligent and quickly recognise sudden behavioural changes in



Adoloscents are hiring spies to keep an eye on their parents' activities

their parents like if one of them is spending less time at home and more time at work. We track the person's activities on a daily basis; when he leaves home, whom is he accompanied with, what he did, etc. The child also help by informing us whether the person is going out of town etc. Then we tell the child what we have found and give him the necessary proofs," Puri adds. But do they provide counselling to help the child deal with the results? Puri replies, "Yes, we counsel the child and sometimes even the parents on how they can overcome the problem."

What makes a 12-year-old hire a detective to spy on his parents? Is it the lack of emotional support at home, or more? RACHEL FERNANDES further investigates...

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Asian Age
Year : 2007